

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 10245 021620Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
MCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00 EB-08 FTC-01 JUSE-00 COME-00
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 IO-13 OPR-02 A-01 CA-01
/115 W

-----052344 031725Z /53

R 021447Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3237
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
SHAPEUSNR
USDOCOSOUTH
USMISSION USNATO

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USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SOCI, IT
SUBJECT: CONTINUING TERRORIST ACTIVITY

REF: ROME 8912

BEGIN SUMMARY: POLITICAL TERRORISM CONTINUED AT A SERIOUS
LEVEL DURNG MAY WITH INCREASING THREATS TO AMERICAN
BUSINESS FIRMS AND EMPLOYEES. HOWEVER, THE POLICE HAVE
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PAGE 02 ROME 10245 021620Z

HAD A FEW SUCCESSES DURING THE MONTH. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE INITIAL TWO WEEKS OF MAY, THERE WAS AN
INTENSE LEVEL OF POLITICAL TERRORISM, INCLUDING THE
KILLING OF ALDO MORO AND THE SHOOTING IN THE LEGS OF A
TOTAL OF 11 BUSINESSMEN AND POLITICIANS. SINCE THEN,
VIOLENCE HAS TAKEN THE MORE "NORMAL" FORM OF FIRE-

BOMBINGS OF OFFICES, BURNING OF CARS AND FIGHTING BETWEEN YOUTHS OF FAR RIGHT AND FAR LEFT POLITICAL GROUPS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SHOOTING OF AN ITALIAN SECURITY FORCE POLICEMAN IN TURIN ON MAY 20, VIOLENCE WAS DIRECTED PRIMARILY AGAINST PROPERTY--THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICES AND BUSINESS FIRMS. THERE WAS ALSO AN ATTEMPT TO BOMB THE ARMY COMPUTER CENTER OUTSIDE ROME.

2. DURING MAY TERRORISTS ALSO EXPANDED THEIR TARGETS TO INCLUDE AMERICAN MULTI-NATIONAL BUSINESSES. A HONEYWELL WAREHOUSE WAS BOMBED AND THE ITALIAN DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL BANK IN MILAN WAS SHOT IN THE LEGS. PERSONS CLAIMING TO BE OF THE RED BRIGADES MADE THREATS AGAINST AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF GETSCO, A GENERAL ELECTRIC SUBSIDIARY. ALTHOUGH THE THREAT HAS NOT BEEN CARRIED OUT--AND IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER IT WAS EVEN GENUINE--THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY ALARMED AND THE TWO AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF GETSCO AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE MOVED TO ZURICH FOR THE TIME BEING.

3. AT THE SAME TIME THERE WERE SOME WELCOME DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE MONTH. THE POLICE HAVE HAD SEVERAL SUCCESSES AGAINST THE RED BRIGADES, HAVING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ROME 10245 021620Z

DISCOVERED A NUMBER OF HIDEOUTS IN ROME AND AN ARMS CACHE IN OSTIA. OF A DIFFERENT ORDER, BUT ALSO DEMONSTRATING IMPROVED POLICE EFFECTIVENESS, SEVERAL IMPORTANT (NON-POLITICAL) KIDNAPPERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. MEANWHILE THE RED BRIGADE TRIAL IN TURIN HAS PROCEEDED RELATIVELY SMOOTHLY AND WITHOUT ANY OF THE THREATS AGAINST THE JUDGE AND JURY HAVING BEEN CARRIED OUT. DESPITE THE CALM, HOWEVER, THE RED BRIGADE THREAT REMAINS SERIOUS.

4. THE EMBASSY IS CAREFULLY MONITORING THE THREATS AGAINST AMERICAN BUSINESS FIRMS AND PERSONNEL. WE WILL BE REPORTING FURTHER ON THIS SUBJECT. GARDNER

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